

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No: To Be Assigned
Applicant: Mutsuko NICHOGI, et al
Filed: March 25, 2004
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING AN IMAGE
TC/A.U.: To Be Assigned
Examiner: To Be Assigned
Confirmation No.: To Be Assigned
Docket No.: MAT-8526US

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (RP) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

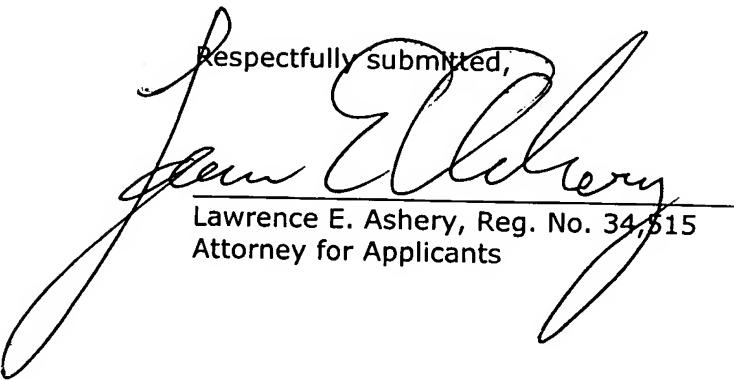
The following Japanese references are not in the English language:

- 1) 2002-108757; and
- 2) H. Kotera, "Digital Image Processing Techniques for Harcopy", Japan Print Society, Vol. 25, No. 3, pp. 39-47, (1988).

References 1) and 2) include an English language abstract and a "concise explanation" under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3) is also set forth in the specification.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/dmw

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449
Copy of (2) References

Dated: March 25, 2004

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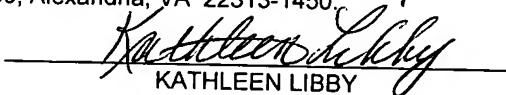
The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

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KATHLEEN LIBBY

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

Complete if Known

Application Number	To Be Assigned
Filing Date	March 25, 2004
First Named Inventor	Mutsuko NICHOGI, et al
Art Unit	To Be Assigned
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned

SHEET 1 of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

3 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional)

² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

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⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3).

5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST 16 if applicable.

⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.
The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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	Application Number	To Be Assigned
	Filing Date	March 25, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Mutsuko NICHOGI, et al
	Art Unit	To Be Assigned
	Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
SHEET 2 of 2	Attorney Docket No. MAT-8526US	

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

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